countries. Both countries have appointed High Commissioners and the Delhi-Lahore bus service has been resumed with effect from July 11, 2003. Pakistan has indicated its willingness to host technical level discussions for resumption of civil aviation. Both sides have released prisoners. There have also been important exchanges in the context of business, cultural and people-to-people contracts.

Pakistan on July 24, 2003 formally suggested meeting between railway authorities of the two countries to discuss modalities to resume railway service. India would move ahead in a step-by-step manner building on the success achieved and the confidence generated.

(c) The security agencies of the Central and State Governments maintain a high level of alertness and are fully geared to check illegal cross border activities.

Proposal mooted by Pakistani MPs to check cross-border terrorism

2003. DR. A.R. KIDWAI:
DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Pakistani Members of Parliament delegation that visited India in the month of May, 2003 had mooted a proposal of having patrols along the Indo-Pak border to check cross-border terrorism;

(b) if so, whether it is a sound proposal and will check the infiltration from both sides;

(c) whether India has considered this view and has initiated discussion with Pakistan on these lines;

(d) if so, to what extent both the countries have agreed;

(e) whether India is ready for this; and

(f) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH): (a) to (f) From time to time, Pakistan has suggested that there should be some form of international or third party monitoring to verify whether cross border infiltration is continuing or not.

The proposal for international monitors is neither practical nor acceptable. Under the Simla Agreement and as reiterated in the Lahore Declaration, both India and Pakistan are committed to resolve all issues bilaterally. There is thus no scope for any third party role. Prime Minister had, during the CICA Summit in Almaty in June, 2002, proposed Joint Patrolling along the LoC as a credible bilateral measures to curb cross border infiltration if Pakistan was sincere in its commitment to end cross broder infiltration and terrorism.

Because of unwillingness to concretely cooperate with India to check cross border terrorism, Pakistan suggested that the proposal was not new and unlikely to work in the present environment.

Government had made it clear that creation of a suitable environment for a sustain dialogue necessarily required end to cross border terrorism and dismantling of the infrastructure of support to terrorism in Pakistan.

Fight against terrorism

2004. DR. A.R. KIDWAI: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Deputy Prime Minister visited USA and UK in June, 2003 and apprised both the countries and gave proof of Pakistan's terrorist activities in J and K and suggested that India and USA must fight Jehadi terrorism together;

(b) if so, whether the UK and the USA were convinced of the proof provided by him and agreed to fight Jehadi terrorism together;

(c) if so, the outcome of these talks; and

(d) to what extent he got assurance from both the countries to influence Pakistan to end cross-border terrorism before talks can start and fight Jehadi terrorism together?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH): (a) During his visit to the United States and the United Kingdom in June, 2003, the Deputy Prime Minister discussed international terrorism, including cross-border terrorism, and the need for strong international cooperation in combating terrorism.

(b) and (c) The United States and the United Kingdom recognise the nature and source of cross-border terrorism in India and agree on